

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A modular server system, comprising:
  - a midplane having a system management bus and a plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane, wherein the blade interfaces are in electrical communication with each other;
  - a server blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane, the server blade having a server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the midplane, and a network interface to connect to a network; and
  - a media blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane, the media blade having at least one media device.
2. The system according to claim 1, further including a power supply module removeably connectable to the midplane to provide power to the modular server system.
3. The system according to claim 1, further including a cooling fan module coupled to the modular server system to cool the modular server system.
4. The system according to claim 1, further including at least one switch blade removeably connectable to the midplane adapted to perform network switching.
5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the midplane is a CompactPCI form factor.

1           6.     The system according to claim 1, wherein the storage medium device is a hard  
2 disk drive.

1           7.     The system according to claim 1, further including a chassis to house the  
2 midplane, the server blade, and the media blade.

1           8.     The system according to claim 1, wherein the server blade and the media blade  
2 are adapted to be hot swapped.

1           9.     The system according to claim 1, wherein the server blade and the media blade in  
2 combination form an individual server system.

1           10.    The system according to claim 1, wherein the network interface is an Ethernet  
2 connector jack.

1           11.    The system according to claim 1, wherein the media device is selected from the  
2 group consisting of a storage medium device, a graphics processing device, an audio processing  
3 device, and a streaming media processing device.

1           12.    A modular server system, comprising:  
2                   a midplane having a system management bus, a first side, a second side, and a  
3 plurality of blade interfaces on the first side and the second side, wherein the blade

4 interfaces on the first side are in electrical communication with the blade interfaces on the  
5 second side;

6 a plurality of server blades each removeably connectable to one of the plurality of  
7 blade interfaces on the first side of the midplane, the server blades each having a server  
8 blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system management  
9 bus of the midplane, and a network interface to connect to a network;

10 a plurality of media blades each removeably connectable to one of the plurality of  
11 blade interfaces on the second side of the midplane, the media blades each having at least  
12 one storage medium device;

13 a power supply module removeably connectable to the midplane to provide power  
14 to the modular server system;

15 a cooling fan module coupled to the modular server system to cool the modular  
16 server system; and

17 a chassis to house the midplane, the server blades, the media blades, the power  
18 supply module, and the cooling fan module.

1 13. The system according to claim 12, further including at least one switch blade  
2 removeably connectable to the midplane adapted to perform network switching between any  
3 number of the server blades installed in the system.

1 14. The system according to claim 12, wherein the midplane is a CompactPCI form  
2 factor.

1           15.    The system according to claim 12, wherein the storage medium device is a hard  
2 disk drive.

1           16.    The system according to claim 12, wherein the server blades and the media blades  
2 are adapted to be hot swapped.

1           17.    The system according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the server blades and at  
2 least one of the media blades in combination form an individual server system.

1           18.    The system according to claim 12, wherein the network interface is an Ethernet  
2 connector jack.

1           19.    A modular server system, comprising:  
2                   a midplane having a system management bus, a first side, a second side, and a  
3 plurality of blade interfaces on the first side and the second side, wherein the blade  
4 interfaces on the first side are in electrical communication with the blade interfaces on the  
5 second side;  
6                   a server blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade interfaces  
7 on the first side of the midplane, the server blade having a server blade system  
8 management bus in electrical communication with the system management bus of the  
9 midplane, and a network interface to connect to a network;

10 a media blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade interfaces  
11 on the second side of the midplane, the media blade having at least one storage medium  
12 device;

13 a second server blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade  
14 interfaces on the first side of the midplane, the second server blade having a second  
15 server blade system management bus in electrical communication with the system  
16 management bus of the midplane, and a second network interface to connect to the  
17 network

18 a second media blade removeably connectable to one of the plurality of blade  
19 interfaces on the second side of the midplane, the second media blade having at least one  
20 second storage medium device;

21 a power supply module removeably connectable to the midplane to provide power  
22 to the modular server system;

23 a cooling fan module coupled to the modular server system to cool the modular  
24 server system; and

25 a chassis to house the midplane, the server blade, the media blade, the second  
26 server blade, the second media blade, the power supply module, and the cooling fan  
27 module, wherein the server blade, the media blade, the second server blade, and the  
28 second media blade share power from the power supply module and share cooling from  
29 the cooling fan module.

1 20. The system according to claim 19, further including at least two switch blades  
2 each removeably connectable to the midplane adapted to perform network switching.

1 21. The system according to claim 19, wherein the midplane is a CompactPCI form  
2 factor.

1 22. The system according to claim 19, wherein the storage medium device and the  
2 second storage medium device are hard disk drives.

1 23. The system according to claim 19, wherein the server blade, the media blade, the  
2 second server blade, and the second media blade are adapted to be hot swapped.

1 24. The system according to claim 19, wherein the server blade and the media blade  
2 in combination form an individual server system.

1 25. The system according to claim 19, wherein the second server blade and the  
2 second media blade in combination form an individual server system.

1 26. The system according to claim 19, wherein the server blade, the second server  
2 blade, and the media blade in combination form two individual server systems.

1 27. The system according to claim 19, wherein the server blade, the media blade, and  
2 the second media blade in combination form an individual server system.

1 28. The system according to claim 19, wherein the network interface and the second  
2 network interface are Ethernet connector jacks.